



Cambridge Health Alliance



HARVARD
MEDICAL SCHOOL
TEACHING AFFILIATE

January 15, 2008

Robert W. Healy
City Manager
Cambridge City Hall
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Mr. Healy:

We are pleased to submit Cambridge Health Alliance's annual report to the city of Cambridge. This report highlights key public health and clinical services provided by Cambridge Health Alliance to Cambridge residents in 2007. Milestones in 2007 included the implementation of mental health screening at two Cambridge Health Alliance pediatric clinics, the creation of the Windsor Street Health Center Patient and Family Advisory Council, and the receipt of the prestigious Model Practice Award from the National Association of County and City Health Officials for Fitness Buddies, the flagship program of *Healthy Living Cambridge*.

We would also like to highlight that Claude-Alix Jacob, MPH, was hired in April as the city's new Chief Public Health Officer and the director of the Cambridge Public Health Department. Mr. Jacob previously served as the Deputy Director, Office of Health Promotion at the Illinois Department of Public Health in which he oversaw a variety of statewide health promotion efforts pertaining to chronic disease programming, oral health education, and childhood screenings. In addition, Mr. Jacob served as the Chief of the Bureau of Disease Prevention and Control at the Baltimore City Health Department where he managed the operations related to the prevention and control of communicable diseases and administered related outreach activities.

Finally, you can expect to receive shortly a supplemental assessment, *Men's Health: A Report on Gender, Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities in Cambridge*, which focuses on the health profile of men in the city of Cambridge. The aim of this report is to inform city leaders and community members about the critical need to engage men in taking care of their health and to provide baseline data for the design of a three-year, federally-funded program that will address health disparities among men of color in Cambridge.

We look forward to working with the City of Cambridge and the various advisory committees as we continue the important work of assuring the optimum health of Cantabrigians.

Sincerely,

Dennis D. Keefe
Chief Executive Officer, Cambridge Health Alliance
Commissioner of Public Health, City of Cambridge

Cc: Claude-Alix Jacob

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2007 Cambridge Highlights: Clinical Services of Cambridge Health Alliance

Cambridge Health Alliance (CHA) is an integrated health system that provides comprehensive clinical, public health, teaching, and research programs at sites throughout Cambridge. In 2007, CHA continued to enhance its services at both the Cambridge Hospital campus and its primary care and specialty locations within the city.

2007 Highlights

Primary Care

CHA provides primary care for children, adolescents, adults, and seniors. In 2007, CHA welcomed eight new physicians to its Cambridge locations, and a geriatrician for its House Calls program for seniors. Primary care physicians who joined CHA include:

- William Kinsey, MD, (Family Medicine) and Bari-Sue Brodsky, MD, (Family Medicine) who are the new medical directors for the North Cambridge Health Center and Riverside Health Center, respectively.
- Agnes Graves, MD, (Internal Medicine), Gregory Hagan, MD, (Pediatrics), and Sheila Cleary, DO, (Pediatrics) who joined the Windsor Street Health Center.

In addition to the three new primary care physicians at Windsor Street, a Family Medicine physician will join the health center in early 2008 to provide both primary care and women's health services. CHA also created a Windsor Street Health Center Patient and Family Advisory Council to provide input and feedback about the health care needs of patients, families, and the community, as well as ways in which the health center can improve its services to patients.

Dental Services

CHA recruited two new dentists to ensure continued access to care. In 2007, there were more than 10,000 visits to the CHA dental clinic at the Windsor Street Health Center.

Emergency Medicine

CHA treated close to 30,000 patients at its 24-hour Emergency Department in 2007.

Luis Lobon, MD, FACEP, joined CHA as the new Site Chief of Emergency Medicine at the Cambridge campus. Dr. Lobon previously served as Chief of Emergency Medicine at Caritas Carney Hospital and Chief Medical Officer for Medicens du Monde (Doctors of the World) in Kenya and Somalia.

Inpatient Hospitalist Service

The Hospitalist service provides designated Internal Medicine physicians to care for patients admitted to the hospital. In 2007, CHA welcomed eight hospitalists, including John Halporn, MD, the new Hospitalist Chief. Dr. Halporn came to CHA from Emerson Hospital in Concord, where he was Hospitalist Director and Associate Chair of Medicine.

Obstetrics/Gynecology & Women's Health

CHA's Maternity Service is led by Kate Harney, MD, Chief, Obstetrics and Gynecology, and staffed by a diverse team of midwives, obstetricians, and family medicine physicians. The number of babies delivered at the Cambridge campus has steadily increased in recent years, from fewer than 1,000 deliveries in FY03 to almost 1,500 deliveries in FY07.

Specialty Services

- **Medical Specialties.** To ensure continued access to care, CHA recruited specialists in Neurology, Oncology, and Pulmonology.
- **Radiology:** CHA invested in the latest 64-slice CT technology at the Cambridge campus. This allows CHA to offer quicker, more accurate testing to detect early signs of heart disease, coronary artery disease, and other health problems.
- **Surgical Specialties.** CHA recruited a new urologist, Louis Liou, MD, who has expertise in prostate cancer and other men's health issues.
- **Breast Health.** Women in Cambridge continued to benefit from the Cambridge Breast Center and Breast Imaging center, which opened in 2005. This year, CHA hired two new breast surgeons (one full time; one part time) as well as a new Medical Director of Breast Imaging. Local women made more than 2,500 combined visits to the Breast Center and the Breast Imaging Suite. To improve access to care, CHA initiated walk-in hours for screening mammograms at Cambridge, as well as evening hours.

Mental Health

CHA serves as a regional safety net for mental health services including child, adolescent, adult, and geriatric inpatient units and extensive outpatient services. In addition, CHA's multicultural mental health program continued to be a national leader in mental health research, particularly in the area of health care disparities.

Clinical Support

- **Academics.** CHA launched a Family Medicine Residency program in partnership with the Tufts University School of Medicine. This three-year program has a total of 24 residents who rotate to the Cambridge campus for several clinical areas.

including Breast Health and OB/GYN. CHA expects this new program will become a feeder for its primary care network and will offset recruitment challenges experienced nationwide in primary care. In 2007, the residency program was chosen as 1 of 14 sites nationally to pilot a new curriculum for Family Medicine training.

- **Information Technology.** In March 2007, CHA became the first hospital system in the state to implement electronic laboratory reporting of communicable diseases to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. This gives state epidemiologists instant access to reports, which could trigger a more rapid regional response to communicable disease outbreaks.

CHA also continued to roll out an electronic medical record system at its clinical sites. This state-of-the-art system will provide patients with safer and more coordinated care, and make traditional paper medical records a thing of the past. By the end of 2008, all primary care sites in Cambridge, as well as the emergency department at the Cambridge campus, will be using the system.

2007 Highlights: Cambridge Public Health Department

Cambridge Public Health Department is a municipal health agency operated by Cambridge Health Alliance through a contract with the City of Cambridge. The department's mission is to improve the quality of life of residents and workers by reducing sickness and injury; encouraging healthy behaviors; and fostering safe and healthy environments in homes, schools, and workplaces.

In 2007, the department experienced a change in leadership and a reorganization of its public and community health governance structure.

In April, Claude-Alix Jacob, MPH, was hired as the new Chief Public Health Officer and serves as the city's director of public health in coordinating efforts with city, state, and federal governments. Mr. Jacob previously served as the Deputy Director, Office of Health Promotion at the Illinois Department of Public Health in which he oversaw a variety of statewide health promotion efforts pertaining to chronic disease programming, oral health education, and childhood screenings. In addition, Mr. Jacob served as the Chief of the Bureau of Disease Prevention and Control at the Baltimore City Health Department where he managed the operations related to the prevention and control of communicable diseases and administered related outreach activities.

Mr. Jacob also served as the Director of Community Affairs at the Sinai Community Institute, a member of the Sinai Health System located in Chicago, Illinois where he provided oversight for a variety of neighborhood activities that included a senior outreach program, a youth violence prevention initiative, and a health careers club that targeted elementary and high school students on Chicago's Westside.

During the year, Cambridge Health Alliance reorganized its public and community health governance structure. In December, the Board of Trustees launched the first meeting of the 12-member Committee on Community and Public Health (CCPH) and the Cambridge Public Health Subcommittee (CPHS). Dr. Deborah Klein-Walker serves as the chair of both committees. The members of the Cambridge Public Health Subcommittee are Deborah Klein-Walker, Moacir Barbosa, Carol van Deusen Lukas and Dennis Keefe (ex-officio). This renewed governance structure provides important feedback on public and community health at the Board level and complements the advisory function of the Community Health Advisory Council (CHAC), formerly known as the Joint Public Health Board.

2007 Highlights

Community Health

The goal of the department's Community Health Programs is to encourage healthy behaviors, influence public health policy, and promote opportunities to prevent disease and improve health. In 2007:

- Staff worked with city leaders, nutrition experts, and restaurateurs to develop strategies for eliminating the use of trans fat in Cambridge food establishments. In the fall, staff facilitated four meetings of the Cambridge Trans Fat Committee and completed a draft report, which will be submitted to the City Manager in early 2008.
- In October, the Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House and its partners (Cambridge Public Health Department, Community Affairs, and the Institute for Community Health) received a three-year, \$750,000 grant from the Federal Office of Minority Health to reduce health disparities among men of color. In addition, the Cambridge Public Health Department received a three-year, \$94,000 state grant to expand health outreach efforts and provide technical assistance to the Men of Color Task Force.
- The Healthy Living Cambridge initiative and its partners: (1) piloted a bilingual healthy weight program in January called Latinas Living Better, and received an additional \$50,000 federal grant to repeat the program in the fall; (2) trained volunteer health advisors from Cambridge Health Alliance to conduct 5-2-1 outreach education; (3) relaunched the Hunt for the Golden Shoes; (4) distributed the *Cambridge Moves* physical activity directory to 3,920 Cambridge public schools students and organized a family fitness expo; (5) piloted the Apple Co-Op, a youth-managed micro enterprise project that provides locally grown apples to Cambridge after-school programs; and (6) produced a TV reduction flyer that encourages new parents to limit their children's screen time.
- Fitness Buddies, the flagship program of *Healthy Living Cambridge*, received a 2007 Model Practice Award from the National Association of County and City Health Officials.
- The Agenda for Children Literacy Initiative distributed 3,019 books to families; organized 37 events attended by approximately 450 parents and 150 children; participated in 9 community fairs and festivals; and educated 1,053 new mothers on the importance of talking and reading to their babies. Staff gave nine professional development trainings to early child care providers, and co-sponsored the sixth annual Caring for Babies Forum. Lei-Anne Ellis, M.S., resigned as coordinator of the Agenda for Children Literacy Initiative. In October, Lauren Leikin, M.P.P., was named the new coordinator.

- During the 2006–2007 school year, the Children’s Dental Program provided dental screenings to 2,251 children (grades K–4) in 14 elementary schools. About 31% of children were referred for treatment, of whom 4% required urgent care. Staff also gave pediatric oral health instruction to more than 100 parents of young children.
- The Domestic Violence Free Zone Initiative provided domestic violence trainings to hospital workers, women’s groups, and domestic violence advocates. In 2007, the initiative developed two awareness campaigns, “Do Not Recycle Violence” and “What’s their Secret?” For Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October, staff helped organize nine events, including a rally and candlelight vigil at City Hall. Staff also hosted a panel discussion, *Window into Domestic Violence: The Impact on Specific Populations*, which aired on CCTV.
- The Chief Public Health Officer and the Violence Prevention Coordinator represented the health department on the Neighborhood Safety Task Force, an ad hoc citywide violence prevention workgroup.
- Staff helped partners launch the Parent Navigator project, a Cambridge-Somerville initiative in which immigrant and bilingual parents were trained to provide guidance to families with children who have substance abuse problems or behavioral issues.

Emergency Preparedness

The goal of the department’s Advanced Practice Center for Emergency Preparedness is to increase emergency preparedness of the City of Cambridge, other Region 4b communities, and the Cambridge Health Alliance by creating systems for effective public health and health care response to emergencies and disasters. In 2007:

- Staff were instrumental in organizing *Operation Ready*, a full-scale Homeland Security-sponsored exercise that simulated an airplane runway collision at Logan Airport. The Oct. 27 emergency preparedness exercise was the largest airport-based mass casualty exercise ever conducted in the world. Cambridge emergency preparedness staff represented the Conference of Boston Teaching Hospitals in planning the exercise, coordinated hospital activity on the day of the exercise, recruited more than 100 volunteer “victims,” and served as evaluators at Cambridge Health Alliance hospitals.
- The department received federal funding through the Boston University School of Public Health in December to strengthen communication protocols, infrastructures, and technologies in 62 communities (including Cambridge). Participating organizations include hospitals, local and state public health, emergency medical services (EMS), community health centers, and long-term care facilities in regions 4a, 4b, and 4c.

- The Regional Epidemiologic Services Center (based at the health department) published *Data Watch*, a report featuring demographic information and key health indicators for 27 local communities (including Cambridge).
- Staff continued to prepare Cambridge Health Alliance staff for a range of possible emergencies and disasters by assisting with the survey of the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. In 2007, staff helped organize multiple drills and tabletop exercises at The Cambridge Hospital, including drills of the new emergency notification system and a full-scale decontamination exercise. In addition, staff helped redesign the patient tracking system used by hospitals in Metro Boston.
- Staff continued to coordinate recruitment activities and facilitate trainings for the Region 4b Medical Reserve Corps, which has 1,865 volunteer members, including 52 Cambridge residents.
- Staff continued to work with city departments and local universities to review plans for emergency dispensing sites (EDS) and developed a series of pictograms designed to promote universal access to EDS services.
- Staff produced a white paper on regionalizing local public health services in Massachusetts, which was presented to 15 emergency preparedness coalitions and five professional organizations.

Environmental Health

The goal of the department's Environmental Health Unit is to protect Cambridge residents, workers, and students from environmental threats that can lead to poor health. In 2007:

- The Healthy Homes childhood asthma program conducted 213 home visits to families of young children with asthma, and provided information about asthma and lead poisoning prevention to residents, housing advocates, and other groups. In March, Healthy Homes and Network Health launched a Medicaid-funded pilot reimbursement program that serves a group of Network Health asthma patients.
- Staff met with residents, businesses, and city leaders to address environmental health concerns at the North Point development, the new park at Harvard and Clark streets, the Bank Street graduate housing construction site, the Midland-Ross industrial site (Tobin-Danehy), the former Mahoney Gardening Center, the 303 Third Street excavation site and abutting daycare, Idenix Pharmaceuticals, Harvard Law School campus, One Broadway (following the release of PCBs and dioxin during a major fire), and other sites.
- During inspections of the city's tobacco vendors in FY07, the rate of sales to minors was 5.1%. The state target is 10%.

- Staff participated in public meetings and citywide task forces to address increased rodent and bed bug activity in Cambridge, and co-sponsored the Greater Boston Bed Bug Conference.
- Staff assembled and facilitated the Cambridge Nanomaterials Advisory Committee, which was charged with developing recommendations for oversight of local nanotechnology activities. Staff also co-organized a conference at MIT on risk assessment of nanomaterials.
- The department was a co-recipient of a state grant to eliminate hazardous chemicals from all CRLS buildings and to develop a chemical training and inventory system for the Cambridge Public School District.
- Staff worked with city leaders and other stakeholders to develop a leaf blower ordinance that would address noise and air pollution issues.
- Staff also conducted a citywide air quality study using sampling devices that measure nitrogen dioxide (an air pollutant produced mainly by road traffic and other internal combustion sources) to determine the relative impact of large roadways on neighborhood air quality. In addition, the Director of Environmental Health testified in favor of proposed state legislation that would establish a monitoring system for airborne particulates along major roadways in the Boston area.
- Staff worked with Cambridge pharmacies to set up public needle disposal containers in response to an amended state statute that now permits needles to be sold over-the-counter.

Public Health Nursing

The goal of the department's Public Health Nursing Program is to enhance wellness and prevent disease among Cambridge residents, workers, and visitors. In 2007:

- Public health nurses administered approximately 2,900 flu shots and 110 pneumonia shots at citywide flu clinics and other venues in Cambridge.
- Public health nursing staff followed up on 375 communicable disease cases.
- Public health nursing staff continued to serve as care managers for patients with active tuberculosis. In 2007, patients with TB made 2,406 visits to the Schipellite Chest Center at The Cambridge Hospital. In addition, public health nurses made more than 350 home visits to patients with active TB.
- Public health nursing staff worked with emergency preparedness, epidemiology, and communications staff to respond to national recalls involving tainted toothpaste and canned meat products. This team produced a health alert flyer and media releases, and worked with Inspectional Services Department to remove products from store shelves. In 2007, the team also issued alerts about contaminated peanut butter, frozen pizzas, and fresh ground beef.

- In July, Cambridge became the first local health department in the state to go “live” with the Massachusetts Electronic Disease Surveillance System, a computerized mechanism for reporting, managing, and tracking reportable infectious diseases. As the sole pilot site in the state, nursing and epidemiology staff assisted the Massachusetts Department of Public Health in implementing the software in other communities.
- In August, the department and Cambridge Cares About AIDS (CCA) launched an opiate overdose prevention program in which public health nurses offered weekly trainings to active opiate users on emergency response to overdose, rescue breathing, and administration of naloxone, an opiate antagonist. During the first four months of this program, seven program participants used naloxone to reverse an opiate overdose. In December, the state provided funding to CCA to expand access to the program. At that time, CCA staff assumed responsibility for the opiate overdose trainings.
- Public health nursing staff started a twice weekly vaccination clinic at the department at which at-risk individuals received free hepatitis, flu, and pneumonia vaccines, as well as tuberculosis skin testing, without an appointment.
- Public health nursing staff continued to serve as health care consultants for five Cambridge day care centers. As part of these contractual agreements, nursing staff conducted onsite inspections, followed up on disease reports, reviewed health care policies, and provided first aid and health education training to teachers. In August, the nurses piloted a half-day training for Cambridge child care providers on health and medication issues, which was attended by 50 Cambridge providers.
- Epidemiology staff continued to monitor disease trends and emergency department data for unusual activity.
- Louise Yvette Charles, RN, received the 2007 Excellence in Nursing Award from the New England Regional Black Nurses Association. Bonnie Johnston, RN, received the 2007 Public Health Nurse Award from the Massachusetts Association of Public Health Nurses.

School Health

The goal of the department’s School Health Program is to help students in grades K–12 stay healthy and in school so they can reach their academic potential. In 2007:

- 100% of entering kindergarteners met state vaccination requirements in 2007. Of these children, 813 children were immunized and 7 had exemptions.
- School health staff coordinated all aspects of the school-based healthy weight program. Activities included making the annual “health and fitness progress report” more accessible to non-English-speaking families; introducing fresh vegetable dishes and healthier entrees, breads, and cereals in all public schools; and evaluating school menus for trans fat and locating alternative products.

- Cambridge public school students made 39,930 visits to school nurses during the 2006–2007 school year. Of these visits, only 4% resulted in dismissal for illness, 0.3% for injury, and 0.1% for emergency care.
- School health staff increased access to vision care and eyeglasses to children of families in financial need.
- School health staff trained 50 school bus drivers on how to deal with a child passenger who experiences a life-threatening allergic reaction. Public health nursing staff assisted with the “epi-pen” training.
- School health and emergency preparedness staff gave an emergency preparedness training to principals, administrators, and school nurses from 15 Cambridge nonpublic schools.
- School nursing staff at the high school (1) created and presented a “dating violence educational resource unit” to 250 students in 12 classrooms; and (2) continued to meet monthly with diabetic students participating in “Beta Buddies,” a Harvard program in which diabetic college students mentor diabetic children and teenagers in the Cambridge Public Schools.

Other Activities

- In July, the Cambridge Public Health Department provided a departmental overview and programmatic updates to the City Council’s Health and Environment Committee.
- In December, Cambridge Health Alliance reconvened the Homelessness Senior Policy Group, which is a citywide workgroup that addresses nuisance behaviors related to homelessness.
- The department produced the *2007 Cambridge Public Health Assessment*, which was mailed to 16,000 Cambridge households and published electronically.
- The department created public service announcements on emergency preparedness, domestic violence, bed bugs, and walking.
- The department promoted healthy lifestyles, early childhood literacy, environmental health issues, domestic violence awareness, and emergency preparedness at various citywide fairs and festivals.
- The department issued citywide proclamations pertaining to national health education and awareness campaigns.

2007 Cambridge Highlights: Community Affairs

One of the Alliance's greatest strengths is its ability to respond to community needs. The Department of Community Affairs (CAF) helps the Alliance address these needs through outreach efforts and innovative community health programs. Through these efforts, Community Affairs staff reach populations that may not have access to the health care system, informing them about health care services and helping to reduce barriers to care.

2007 Highlights

Volunteer Health Advisor Program

The Volunteer Health Advisor Program trains community members to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate health education and outreach to underserved and hard-to-reach populations. In 2007:

- 36 Cambridge residents served as volunteer health advisors.
- Volunteer health advisors provided 82 education workshops and/or screenings at 18 Cambridge locations, including the Cambridge Senior Center, Concilio Hispano, Area IV Pride Day, the City Employee Health Fair, CHA's Elder Service Plan office, and the Cambridge YWCA.
- Volunteer health advisors provided health education and initial screening evaluation to participants in the Latinas Living Better program, a Cambridge-based program that offers nutrition, fitness, and cooking classes to young Latina women.
- Volunteer health advisors helped facilitate a focus group of Haitian parents about the television-watching behavior of their children.
- Approximately 200 Cambridge residents were served by the volunteer health advisors in 2007.

Cambridge Health Alliance Breast Health Initiative

The Breast Health Initiative is a collaborative project of the Cambridge Health Alliance departments of Radiology, Medicine/Primary Care, and Community Affairs. Its goal is to improve mammography screening rates through enhanced breast health services, patient outreach, and patient education. In addition to individual screening appointments, the Breast Health Initiative offered group education and screening sessions on seven Saturdays in 2007. At these group sessions, 50 Cambridge women were screened, including 15 women who had never had a mammogram.

HIV Outreach, Counseling & Testing Program

The HIV Counseling & Testing Program provides confidential HIV testing and counseling services for people who are at high risk for the disease.

- HIV counseling and testing clinics are available to Cambridge residents at the Windsor Street Health Center, the Zinberg Clinic at The Cambridge Hospital, North Cambridge Health Center, East Cambridge Health Center, and Riverside Health Center.
- The HIV Outreach Program participated in 13 community events in Cambridge in 2007, including the city employee health fair at which more than 75 people received information about HIV.
- Staff from Community Affairs and the Zinberg Clinic gave a nine-session workshop to Haitians residents living with HIV.

Men of Color Health Initiative

The Men of Color Health Initiative (MOCHI) is a comprehensive program that focuses on the unique health needs of men of color.

- **Hoops N' Health**, an annual day-long basketball tournament and health fair, is the cornerstone of the Men of Color Health Initiative. The event has become the city's largest community health fair and has provided vital health information to more than 10,000 people over the past 15 years. Participants in the basketball tournament are required to attend a health education workshop. In 2007, participants also completed a men's health survey developed by the Cambridge Public Health Department and the Institute for Community Health. Hoops N' Health attracted 300 tournament participants and nearly 1,000 spectators in 2007.
- **Citywide Violence Prevention Task Force.** Richard Harding, MOCHI coordinator, was invited by Mayor Ken Reeves to co-chair the employment subcommittee of the Citywide Violence Prevention Task Force. The subcommittee examined the utilization of citywide employment services and is responsible for developing recommendations that will help vulnerable men and women become gainfully employed.

Reaching Out About Depression

Reaching Out About Depression (ROAD) is a community-based program created by and for low-income women with depression. ROAD also offers leadership opportunities for women who join the network so that they can become peer supports for their fellow ROAD members, and agents of change in their communities. Currently, 12 Cambridge women, (75% of total membership) participate in the ROAD program.

- In 2007, ROAD members completed a community quilt, "Portraits of Mental Health" that was hung at Cambridge City Hall as part of the "Violence

Transformed” exhibit and also displayed at the Margaret Fuller House in Cambridge. Members also produced an art show, “And Still We Rise,” at the Out of the Blue Gallery in Cambridge. In October, ROAD collaborated with the Margaret Fuller House on their bimonthly poetry series.

- ROAD staff and members gave presentations to women at the Cambridge Child Care Resource Center and the Cambridge YWCA.
- In October, the ROAD Advocacy Resource Team began training student advocates from Harvard Law School and the Boston College School of Counseling and Developmental Psychology.

Authorware Computer Health Literacy Program

Authorware is an interactive multimedia educational software program used by Cambridge Health Alliance to custom-design health education and screening modules. Authorware allows patients to use a simple touch screen to access easy-to-understand health information. In 2007:

- Educational modules on depression, diabetes, asthma, primary care, and patient satisfaction were installed at Broadway Health Center and East Cambridge Health Center.
- The domestic violence assessment module was installed at the Women’s Health Center at The Cambridge Hospital.

2007 Cambridge Highlights: Institute for Community Health

The Institute for Community Health (ICH) is a unique collaboration of three Massachusetts health care systems: Mount Auburn Hospital, Massachusetts General Hospital of Partners HealthCare Inc., and Cambridge Health Alliance. Its mission is to improve the health of Cambridge, Somerville, and surrounding cities and towns. ICH conducts community-based participatory health research, evaluates the efficacy of programs, and assists community groups in using health information to effect program and policy change. In 2007, the ICH partnered with the Cambridge Public Health Department, Cambridge Health Alliance, and many local agencies and coalitions to improve and expand public health programming in Cambridge.

2007 Highlights

Obesity Prevention and Physical Activity Promotion

The Institute for Community Health continued to serve as a catalyst and major partner in obesity prevention and physical activity promotion work in Cambridge:

- In January, ICH and its partners released promising data showing a decline in childhood overweight among Cambridge public school students in grades K–8 between 2004 and 2006. During the same period, the proportion of CPS students who passed all fitness tests increased from 28% to 36%. ICH and public health staff presented these data to the Cambridge School Committee and Kids Council. Findings were also publicized in local and national media.
- The Healthy Children Task Force (HCTF) received a 2007 Innovation in Prevention Award from the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Service for promoting nutrition, physical activity, and healthful weight among Cambridge public school children. HCTF is a diverse coalition of agencies and organizations that include the Institute for Community Health, Cambridge Public Health Department, Cambridge Public Schools, City of Cambridge Department of Human Service Programs, and numerous community-based organizations.
- ICH participated in a community task force on playground safety.
- ICH staff continued to evaluate *Latinas Living Better*, a Cambridge-based program that offers nutrition, fitness, and cooking classes to young Latina women.

Child Mental Health

ICH continued to spearhead efforts to integrate physical and behavioral health care for children, adolescents, and families in Cambridge and neighboring communities. The Collaborative Steering Committee for this effort includes local agencies, as well as parents and the Cambridge Prevention Coalition.

- Mental health screening has been instituted at four Cambridge Health Alliance pediatric and family medicine clinics, including two new sites in 2007. Since 2003, more than 5,000 children have been screened.
- The Integrated Comprehensive Care for Children Project (an ICH program) funded the Cambridge Prevention Coalition to launch the Parent Navigator project and train a group of parents to assist other families in navigating the mental health system. To date, the parents who have been trained speak seven languages other than English. In addition, a presentation was made to the Kids Council on behavioral health services in the Cambridge area.

Gender Health

- ICH collaborated with the Cambridge Public Health Department on two reports in 2007: *The Status of Women and Girls in Cambridge* and *Men's Health: A Report on Gender, Racial, And Ethnic Health Disparities in Cambridge*. Both reports will be released in early 2008.
- Preliminary findings from the men's health report were used to identify gaps in services and provide data for two successful grants that will support a new men's health program in Cambridge.
- ICH will serve as the evaluator for the new men's health program.
- ICH continued to lead the Prevention Against Violence Experiences (PAVE) project, in partnership with Cambridge Health Alliance and the health department. PAVE implemented computerized domestic violence screening at the Women's Health Center at The Cambridge Hospital in fall 2007.

Real World Public Health

- On April 18, the Institute for Community Health and the Cambridge Public Health Department co-hosted the fourth annual "Real World Public Health" workshop for 40 graduate students from the Harvard and Boston University schools of public health and the Tufts School of Medicine.

Other Work

- **Literacy:** ICH continued to evaluate literacy and family support work for the Agenda for Children Literacy Initiative.
- **Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance Survey:** Massachusetts General Hospital, Cambridge Health Alliance, Mount Auburn Hospital, the Cambridge Public Health Department, and ICH agreed to provide funding for a Cambridge Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance Survey that will be implemented by ICH in 2008.
- **Emergency Preparedness:** ICH continued to serve as the evaluator for the Cambridge Advanced Practice Center for Emergency Preparedness.
- **Graduate Interns:** ICH mentored graduate students who worked on a variety of Cambridge-related projects.